

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

December, 1988

Vol. 43 No. 9

310 Madison Avenue, Suite 2116; New York, NY 10017

(212) 983-4655

Elves to Throw Party Dec. 20 for OPC Members and Guests

By Chief Elf Fred Ferguson

Those mischievous OPC elves are at it again—preparing the goodies (and a few surprises, too) for the OPC's annual yuletide party.

This is an event to which members will want to bring guests. And it is an excellent opportunity to introduce friends and colleagues (either or both)

to the wonders of the OPC.

The usual quota of gifties is being mustered for the elves to distribute among OPCers and their guests as determined by a drawing.

In the event they are able, members are urged to bring additional gifts for this purpose.

And a few good elves are still sought.

Contact Chief Elf Fred Ferguson, (212) 977-9400.

All this razz-a-mah-tazz, including something to eat, will be at: 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 20, 9th Floor Solarium, Women's Republican Club, 3 West 51st St., NYC. \$10 Per Person, Cash Bar. RSVP: Mary Novick 212-983-4655.

Do come, as the song goes, "Let Us Entertain You."

What Have You Done to Bring Terry Back?

Editor's Note: Peggy Say has been battling to gain the release of her brother, Terry Anderson, AP's Middle East chief correspondent, and eight other American hostages.

By Peggy Say

I have never been given to emotional displays, but as a group of friends and I were on our way to dinner, I found I could hold it in no longer, and suddenly burst into tears. I ducked into an alcove and just leaned against the building and sobbed.

In an effort to comfort me, Bill Foley, a member of the Journalists Committee to Free Terry Anderson, patted my arm and told me that I had spoken beautifully at the luncheon meeting that day.

"You just don't understand" I told Bill. "I gave almost that same speech three years ago! Same speech, different audience, different ex-hostage by my side, but nothing changes; Terry still stays chained to a basement wall somewhere in Lebanon and I'm tired of trying to make people care!"

The next day, physically drained and emotionally exhausted, I reluctantly kept a luncheon date with Leonard Saffir. During the three hours we spent together, I felt my spirits rise and hope was suddenly renewed. Leonard's enthusiasm was catching and he offered many new directions and initiatives to keep Terry's plight before the public.

At the luncheon the previous day, I had said to Terry's fellow journalists, "When Terry Anderson comes home—and he will come home—I don't have a problem. I'm going to be able to look him in the face and know that I did everything I could think of to gain his freedom." There are some like Len Saffir who will be able to do the same. My question to others is, "How are you going to feel?"

Think about the words of Elie Weisel, Nobel Peace Prize winner: "There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never come a time when we fail to protest."



Say looks on as Saffir signs Terry's card.

Journalists' Christmas Wish

Representing Overseas Press Club as its president, Len Saffir joined hundreds of journalists in signing a special birthday card created for Terry Anderson by "Doonesbury" cartoonist Gary Trudeau. The time was Oct. 27; the occasion, Anderson's 41st birthday, the fourth birthday he has spent imprisoned in Lebanon.

"See you soon," Saffir scrawled on the card.

To do what they can to make this message more than pen scratches, Saffir as well as others in the media such as Tom Brokaw, Peter Jennings, Bill Moyers, Dan Rather, James Reston have formed a group called the Journalists Committee to Free Terry Anderson.

Six to eight members hold conference calls originating from Saffir's office at 9 a.m. each Saturday. Among those on phones at the last session were Bill Foley, David Ackerman, Bonnie Anderson, and Don Mell, the photographer with Anderson at the time he was seized.

In the works is Operation Hostage Freedom, a grass roots effort to remind everyone everywhere not to forget Americans in captivity this holiday.

Actually, the committee hopes people will do more than just remember.

"Burn candles. Pray for them. Speak up for them," says Saffir.

Who's doing what, when, here, there, everywhere

Overseas members: Send items to Al Kaff, Cornell University News Service, 840 Hanshaw Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850-1548.

Domestic members: Drop a note or clip to Ralph Gardner, OPC Bulletin, Suite 2116, 310 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017. Pictures welcomed too!

NOBEL THOUGHTS: Henry A. Singer, in the *American Nobel Bulletin*, explains why the American Nobel Committee is asking Congress to provide special tax exemption for Nobel Prize winners. "Why should we penalize them for trying to save us from ourselves?" he writes.

Singer is executive officer of the Committee which was formed in 1942 to pay tribute to Nobel Laureates everywhere. The group is scheduled to meet in Washington, Dec. 9, on the eve of 1988 ceremonies in Scandinavia. Singer, a former OPC dinner chairman, has been an OPC member for 30 years.

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MAKES THE BIG APPLE BIGGER: OPCer Charles Gillett, immediate past president and current consultant to the N.Y. Convention & Visitors Bureau—he created the world-famous Big Apple marketing and promotion campaign—was elected in October to the Hall of Fame of the American Society of Travel Agents. With this, Charles becomes the first person to have received all three of the travel industry's major honors.



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STERLING ON ROGERS: Member Bryan Sterling and wife Frances have completed the manuscript for their fifth book covering the material of Will Rogers. Their book, to be published by M. Evans, is scheduled for April release. Even while this was in preparation, they were at work on their next volume, which traces events leading up to the 1935 plane crash that killed Rogers and Wiley Post near Pt. Barrow, Alaska.

The Sterlings spent the summer in Alaska, including a week at an Eskimo village where they located four natives who actually saw the aircraft fall. Their narrative will read like a detective story. Bryan would appreciate hearing from anyone who had contact with Will Rogers. His phone number is (212) 362-8152.

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JACK WANTS TO SEE YOU: John C. (Jack) Maisano, editor and publisher of *Asian Business* in Hong Kong and Singapore, made his annual pilgrimage to New York recently to handle business and to brief himself on US politics and other events which may be related to Southeast Asia.

As a result of the rapid growth of *Asian Business* Maisano has added personnel and moved to new quarters. His new address is KaiTak Commercial Building, 317 Des Voeux Road, Central Hong Kong. The OPC member wants other members to drop in when they are out his way.

He has become treasurer of the Society of Hong Kong publishers and has just been elected to the board of directors of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong.

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Member N. WERNER RENBERG, a public relations specialist and skilled investor—formerly Business Week, Dallas Morning News and UP writer—is co-author "Making Money with Mutual Funds: Investment Strategies to Beat the Market." It is published by John Wiley & Sons.

The Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan has hired AL STAMP as its new general manager. A longtime resident of Tokyo, Stamp owns a bar in Roppongi, one of Tokyo's night-life districts, and a Japanese restaurant in Rochester. He studied Japanese at Georgetown University, hotel administration at Cornell University and constitutional law at Tokyo University.

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JACK CASSERLY, an *INS* correspondent in the Korean War and later a reporter in Paris, Rome and Washington with *CBS*, *Hearst Headline Service* and *ABC*, and Barry M. Goldwater have written the former senator's autobiography "Goldwater," just published by Doubleday.

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From London, **JOE GRIGG** reports that he plans to move back to the United States after 22 years in the United Kingdom. Joe retired six years ago from his post as UPI's chief European correspondent.

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FRANCES HANNA of Acacia House Publishing Services Ltd., Toronto, is the newest member of the Overseas Committee, established to provide an additional link between the Club and its members working outside the United States. In October, Frances attended the Frankfurt Book Fair.

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WALTER FROEHLICH, owner/editor of International Science Writers, Washington, D.C., was elected to a fourth term as vice president of the American Astronautical Society. He is editor of its magazine, *The Space Times*, for which he writes a column under the heading, "In Orbit."

Last month he also was elected associate fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association in recognition of his writing through the years on physical and biomedical aspects of space flight.

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HERB'S HOT KEYBOARD: Long time member J. Herbert Silverman had a busy November. His features on Hong Kong's frenetic dragon boat races appeared in Tokyo's *Far East Traveler*; a profile of Andy Warhol and the artist's effect upon bottle label design ran in *Wine & Spirits Magazine*. Herb's story on the mythology of County Antrim's Giant's Causeway appeared in *British Heritage*, while an article on the CIGA Hotels' role in Italian tourism ran in *Corporate and Incentive Travel*. At the same time, *Hotel & Resort Industry Magazine* carried his report on the spectacular recent growth of Hyatt Hotels.

Upcoming in December is his photo-essay on New York's Sherry-Lehmann—one of the world's leading wine shops—in Hong Kong's glossy *Regent Magazine*.

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WATCH FOR 'CERVI': Columbia Rossi exhibited two of her paintings this November at the 13th annual art exhibition of the Independent Art Society, co-sponsored by Oyster Bay, L.I. A primitive artist, she paints under the name of Cervi. She remembers that one of her first paintings, a scene of the Canary Islands, was raffled off for \$1000 at a Christmas bazaar held by Princess Grace of Monaco.

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O'NICE! Claire O'Gara Grimes is now owner and publisher of the weekly *Irish Echo*, responsibilities held by her husband John J. Grimes, until his death last year. The tabloid-sized publication reaches 56,000 readers who have Ireland in their hearts.

Get Your Reservation

Ooh La-La! Plans Shaping for OPC Trip to France

Remember that trip to France proposed in *The Bulletin* last spring? Many OPC members sent letters expressing interest. Well, it is about to be a reality!

The trip, scheduled for late October, will be one of the highlights of the Club's 50th anniversary celebration. Jean Sprain Wilson has agreed to serve as coordinator and tour director.

Although plans are already shaping up, it is too soon to announce exact dates and prices. This will be determined by the number of persons traveling. (The more who sign-up, the lower the price will be.)

But this much can be said at this time:

It will be a ten-day trip beginning the last week in October. The price will include transportation, good hotels and breakfast and many other extras. Hotels already selected are the centrally-located Hotel du Louvre in Paris, and the Martinez at Cannes.

To join the group, write immediately to: France Travel, Overseas Press Club, Suite 2116, 310 Madison Ave., NYC 10017.

The trip will be part-journalism, and all fun. There will be a get-together with European-based OPC members and meetings with French political and business leaders. Arrangements will be made for interviews and photo opportunities.

Events will also include side trips and social gatherings. Not incidentally, the trip co-incides with the year-long celebration of the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution.

Chances are that those who publish

reports or articles resulting from their experience are eligible for a tax deduction, considering the change in tax laws for writers. Media too, who sponsor a staff member's travel also may possibly qualify for a tax break.

Though October sounds a bit far off, it is not. Group travel at bargain rates require early commitments, partially because of the fluctuation of American currency abroad.

Therefore, it is important to know immediately who is interested in joining the OPC tour. Those who respond will be advised by mail as soon as the best price has been nailed down. At this point, a deposit will be required, the balance to be paid at a later date.

Note: You OPCers who have already written expressing interest need not reply again, unless you've changed your mind, or your address.

MacArthur Battles Britain—

U.S. Free Press in Danger, Too, He Says

"This is a cautionary tale," John (Rick) MacArthur says in explaining why he is suing the British government for blocking the distribution of the December issue of *Harper's* magazine in Britain.

MacArthur who is publisher of *Harper's* serves the OPC Board of Governors.

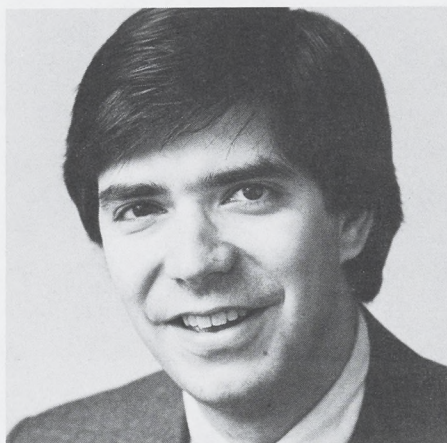
"This is the first time the Thatcher government has extended the Official Secrets act beyond the borders of Britain to censor an American publication," he says.

There could be worse down the road, MacArthur believes. Unless American journalists are not vigilant, there may be similar efforts by the U.S. government to limit press freedoms. How did his singular war with the British colony begin?

Anthony Cavendish who retired more than 10 years ago as a British agent wrote a book, "Inside M.I.6," in defense of his friend, Sir Maurice Oldfield, who headed the agency and who was unjustly accused of being a homosexual. Cavendish told no military secrets, British censors conceded, but suppressed the book anyway.

"What is revealed... is the way a government may use its authority not simply to keep secrets that affect national security, but to control information, limit debate and enlarge its power," the publisher says in the preface to the Cavendish excerpt.

It explains why MacArthur decided to challenge Prime Minister Thatcher by



John R. MacArthur

publishing part of the book. "It's not the story. It's not sensational," he says. It's not the business, either. *Harper's* distributes only 200 copies in England. It's the principle.

"And therein for American citizens lies the moral of this cautionary tale," MacArthur adds in the preface. "All too many signs in our own society suggests that all too many people, not a few of them well placed in government, wish to enlarge their already ample powers to control information, limit debate, suppress dissent, and deny the right of free speech."

After a government solicitor threatened *Harper's* British distributors with contempt of court penalties, MacArthur flew to London and filed a law suit.

What's News Isn't, Historian Reports

By Fred Ferguson

It takes J-school Prof. Mitchell Stephens 301 pages—and another 100 pages of end notes—to conclude there's not much new in what people figure is news.

That's not bad. In fact, his is a thoughtful book by a thoughtful young man who has faith in both journalism and the teaching of it. And he provided OPCers with an entertaining and informative evening Nov. 15 talking about his new book, "A History of News: From the Drum to the Satellite" (Viking Penguin).

As in his book, Stephens, 39, associate professor of journalism and mass communication at New York University, opened recounting tales of early reporting, quoting for example, a New York Post headline of today, reading "Let Me Die!" and one from the long dead New York World which read, "Let Me Die! Let Me Die!"

If much of what he found might be assumed without depth research—early nomadic Mongols spread news by asking travelers coming down the track, "What's new?"—fact is he's done the research to provide a good basis and/or reference on the reporting of news.

Under questioning he spoke at some length about the growth in interpretive and analytical reporting, particularly in print journalism in response to the pressures imposed by electronic journalism.

OPC Mourns Death of Three Members

OPC Co-Founder, Former President

Hal Lehrman died of a heart attack Oct. 31 at age 77. He had been looking forward to seeing the club which he co-founded—this club—celebrate its 50th birthday.

Over comradely drinks in a bar in March, 1939, Charlie Ferlin, Sam Dashiell and Lehrman conceived the idea of a club for overseas reporters, and held the first meeting a month later, April 9, 1939, in Manhattan's Hotel Algonquin.

Lehrman was president from 1967 to 1970.

Born in the Bronx, Lehrman was graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Cornell University in 1932. He began his career as a reporter with *The Associated Press* in 1934 and later became a war correspondent. He also worked at *Newsweek*, *The Daily News* and *The Herald Tribune*. In 1957 he won the George Polk Award for Outstanding Foreign Reporting.

Lehrman also worked as a free lance writer and a book reviewer for major newspapers and magazines.

Media Neglect Africa, Levin's Study Shows

In reporting on Africa, the American media seem to respond only to crises—civil wars, famine and other political upheavals, Harry C. Levin is discovering in preparing a report for use in a Hunter College seminar.

Even then, says the longtime OPC member, South Africa and apartheid get the play.

His preliminary findings indicate a baffling series of contrast, he says. The United States, with the world's largest number of newspapers, periodicals and broadcasting stations, and despite the presence of the UN headquarters, has largely ignored what is happening to 500 million African people experiencing independence since World War II.

"For most Americans, Africa remains the dark continent visible mainly in the pages of *National Geographic*," he adds.

He says that from his research thus far it appears that only *The New York Times*, *Associated Press*, and *Reuters* are adequately staffed and interested in continuously reporting developments.



Hal Lehrman



Hester Hensell

Hensell Founded The OPC Bulletin

Hester Hensell, an OPC member since 1941 and founder of the OPC Bulletin, died Nov. 3. She was also chairman of the OPC Cinema Committee for four years.

During the years leading to World War II she served as a foreign correspondent for *The United Press*, and *The Philadelphia Bulletin*. She wrote several books, among them, "As We See Russia," and "Twelve Dates with Destiny."

Hensell handled public relations for Polish Government Information Center in New York and was a Public Relations consultant for the New York Board of Education.

Any OPCer wishing to share information or experiences regarding African coverage can reach him at 212-744-1734.

Wrote Best-Selling Study of "Sybil"

Flora Rheta Schreiber, 70, whose best-selling books often made headlines, died Nov. 3 of a heart attack.

The Overseas Press Club member first attracted national attention in 1973 with her book, "Sybil," a case study of a woman with 16 distinct personalities. It later became a two-part television movie.

"Shoemaker," published in 1983, was based on the true story of Joseph Kallinger, a shoemaker who murdered three people in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The family of one of the victims sued Kallinger, the publisher, and Schreiber for their share of the profits under a law forbidding criminals or their representatives from profiting from crimes. And won. However, an appellate panel later reversed the decision.

Schreiber taught English and speech at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

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The Overseas Press Club Bulletin (ISSN-0738-7202) is published monthly, except August, for \$24 per year to members, included in dues, by the Overseas Press Club of America, New York, N.Y. 10017. Second class postage paid at New York, N.Y.

Jean Sprain Wilson, Editor: Susan Baxter, Fred Ferguson, Ralph Gardner, Associate Editors.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Overseas Press Club, 310 Madison Avenue, Suite 2116, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
310 Madison Avenue
Suite 2116
New York, N.Y. 10017
(ISSN-0738-7202)